

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the above-identified application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-17 (cancelled).

5 Claim 18. (New) A rinse module comprising at least one circular turret rotatable about an axis and adapted to transport containers through the rinse module wherein the containers are rinsed with cleaning fluid, said at least one turret including means for supporting the containers around a periphery of said at least one turret with open ends of the containers pointing downward at all times during turret rotation, the axis of rotation of the at least one turret being arranged at an angle to the horizontal sufficient to insure drainage of the cleaning fluid from the containers by gravity, said at least one turret being a star wheel having a plurality of pockets around its periphery adapted to each receive a container, a stationary guide rail arranged around at least part of the periphery of the at least one turret to support containers within the pockets, and the guide rail being arranged to provide sufficient contact between the guide rail, the containers and the pockets to rotate the containers about their longitudinal axes as they are transported around the periphery of the at least one turret.

Claim 19. (New) A rinse module comprising at least one circular turret rotatable about an axis and adapted to transport containers through the rinse module wherein the containers are rinsed with cleaning fluid, said at least one turret including means for supporting the containers around a periphery of said at least one turret with open ends of the containers pointing downward at all times during turret rotation, the axis of rotation of the at least one turret being arranged at an angle to the horizontal sufficient to insure drainage of the cleaning fluid from the containers by gravity, the at least one turret includes a plurality of rotatable mandrels arranged around its periphery, adjacent mandrels defining said pockets, a stationary guide rail arranged around at least part of the periphery of the at least one turret to support containers within the pockets; and the guide rail being arranged to provide sufficient contact between the guide rail, the containers and the pockets to rotate the containers about their longitudinal axes as they are transported around the periphery of the at least one turret.

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Claim 20. (New) A rinse module comprising at least one circular turret rotatable about an axis and adapted to transport containers through the rinse module wherein the containers are rinsed with cleaning fluid, said at least one turret including means for supporting the containers around a periphery of said at least one turret with open ends of the containers pointing downward at all times during turret rotation, the axis of rotation of the at least one turret being arranged at an angle to the horizontal sufficient to insure drainage of the cleaning fluid from the containers by gravity, and the at least one turret is disposed with its axis of rotation at an angle of substantially 15 degrees (15°) to the horizontal.

Claim 21. (New) A rinsing device comprising a plurality of rinse modules, each rinse module including at least one circular turret rotatable about an axis and being adapted to transport containers there through wherein the containers are rinsed with cleaning fluid, each of said turrets including means for supporting containers around a periphery of the associated turret with open ends of the containers pointed downward at all times during turret rotation, the axis of rotation of each turret being arranged at an angle to the horizontal sufficient to insure drainage of the cleaning fluid from the containers by gravity, and means for supplying waste-cleaning fluid from one rinse module to a previous rinse module.

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Claim 22. (New) A rinse module comprising at least one circular turret rotatable about an axis and adapted to transport containers through the rinse module wherein the containers are rinsed with cleaning fluid, said at least one turret including means for supporting the containers around a periphery of said at least one turret with open ends of the containers pointing downward at all times during turret rotation, and means for creating a negative pressure inside the rinse module to improve the drying thereof.

Claim 23. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 18 wherein said supporting means support said at least one turret such that the longitudinal axes of the containers are substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the at least one turret.

Claim 24. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 18 including a second circular turret rotatable about an axis, and means for guiding containers from said at least one turret to said second turret.

Claim 25. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 18 wherein said at least one turret axis is disposed at an angle of substantially 15 degrees (15°) to the horizontal.

Claim 26. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 18 including a second circular washing stage turret and a third circular drying stage turret each rotatable about an axis, said second and third turret axes being disposed substantially parallel but vertically offset from each other, and said drying stage turret is located above said washing stage turret.

B/ Claim 27. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 19 wherein said supporting means support said at least one turret such that the longitudinal axes of the containers are substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the at least one turret.

Claim 28. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 19 including a second circular turret rotatable about an axis, and means for guiding containers from said at least one turret to said second turret.

Claim 29. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 19 wherein said at least one turret axis is disposed at an angle of substantially 15 degrees (15°) to the horizontal.

Claim 30. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 19 including a second circular washing stage turret and a third circular drying stage turret each rotatable about an axis, said second and third turret axes being disposed substantially parallel but vertically offset from each other, and said drying stage turret is located above said washing stage turret.

Claim 31. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 20 wherein said supporting means support said at least one turret such that the longitudinal axes of the containers are substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the at least one turret.

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Claim 32. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 20 including a second circular turret rotatable about an axis, and means for guiding containers from said at least one turret to said second turret.

Claim 33. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 20 including a second circular washing stage turret and a third circular drying stage turret each rotatable about an axis, said second and third turret axes being disposed substantially parallel but vertically offset from each other, and said drying stage turret is located above said washing stage turret.

Claim 34. (New) The rinsing device as defined in claim 21 wherein each supporting means support containers such that the longitudinal axes of the containers are substantially parallel to the axis of rotation of the at least one turret.

Claim 35. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 21 including a second circular turret rotatable about an axis, and means for guiding containers from said at least one turret to said second turret.

B/ Claim 36. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 21 including a second circular washing stage turret and a third circular drying stage turret each rotatable about an axis, said second and third turret axes being disposed substantially parallel but vertically offset from each other, and said drying stage turret is located above said washing stage turret.

Claim 37. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 22 including a second circular turret rotatable about an axis, and means for guiding containers from said at least one turret to said second turret.

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Claim 38. (New) The rinse module as defined in claim 22 including a second circular washing stage turret and a third circular drying stage turret each rotatable about an axis, said second and third turret axes being disposed substantially parallel but vertically offset from each other, and said drying stage turret is located above said washing stage turret.
